



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**


**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL**

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 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (8.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025. The Economics and Governance Committee, of which I am proudly the chair, presented report No. 17 to the House.

In her contribution the opposition spokesperson talked about the cost-of-living relief of \$1,000 that went to every person who had an electricity account, including the Clive Palmers of the world. There was no discretion in it. It went to all people who had an electricity bill. It did not matter who they were. There was billions of dollars spent. Let us call it for what it was: a last-ditch attempt to buy votes at the October 2024 election. It was unfunded. If it had been properly planned, those billions of dollars would not have ended up in the blowouts that we saw.

This bill is the latest chapter in the sorry story of Labor's fiscal deception and mismanagement. In its 2024-25 budget the Miles Labor government hid its project blowouts and underfunded key frontline services. They all started to come into the light when we started going through the books after winning government. It is billions of dollars. As an example, the Coomera Hospital is a year behind schedule and a billion dollars over budget. The foundations had not even got out of the ground. That is the type of planning the Labor government did. We have rescued it, we have revamped the plan and we are going to take it from a 400-bed hospital, which was never going to be delivered on budget and on time by those opposite, to a 600-bed hospital. That is for the people of the northern Gold Coast.

The last budget was designed to make it through the four months to the October election—I alluded to that a short while ago—not the full 12-month financial year. Again, that became abundantly obvious when we came in to government. Even the 50-cent fares were not funded. It was funded for six months. It was a trial. There was no funding beyond that. We have locked them in. We have made sure the people of Queensland are guaranteed those 50-cent fares going forward.

The unforeseen expenditure, we must remember, relates to the 2024-25 budget—appropriation not allowed for in the former government's last budget. Parliament is now required to formally approve this unforeseen expenditure. Across 17 departments and the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, the supplementary appropriation required in 2024-25 was \$5.746 billion. This represents 6.3 per cent of the original appropriation. That sounds like a lot, but I will come to the previous year a bit later.

Key frontline service areas, such as child safety, social housing, homelessness services and support for victims of Labor's crime crisis, were underfunded in the 2024-25 budget. Those opposite cannot escape that. It is out there for the people of Queensland to see. Over \$2 billion extra was required for Queensland Health due to the mismanagement of the former minister and now shadow

treasurer, the member for Waterford. Also included within the 2024-25 supplementary appropriation is the funding provided by the Crisafulli government, as I mentioned a short while ago, for the permanent 50-cent fares.

Despite all of the significant funding black holes and blowouts left behind by the Miles government, this is significantly down on the previous year: a 11.6 per cent, or \$9 billion, blowout in supplementary appropriation for the 2023-24 year. For 2023-24, the massive \$9 billion in supplementary appropriation was split into three bills. Why was that? They were trying to sneak it through. They were trying to make it look a little bit smaller. Of course, Treasury realised we do not need to do that—we should bring it all together in one appropriation, and that is what we are doing going forward from here.

Nonetheless, the 6.3 per cent outcome for 2024-25 is still historically high and is as a result of Labor's mismanagement. Let us add those figures together. It is not really two years of funding that we are talking about—the 2023-24 and 2024-25 figures—because it was only funded for a short period. Let us add them together and say that between the two of them there is around \$15 billion. I think I would be fair to those opposite if I said that three-quarters of that was because of their mismanagement. Some of it was for our 50-cent fares—to bring that into the equation—and there were a few bob here, there and everywhere. Of the \$15 billion, something in the order of \$12 billion was on their shoulders.

**Mr Head:** That is a lot of hospital upgrades.

**Mr CRANDON:** I will take the interjection from the member for Callide; that is a lot of hospital upgrades. In fact, you could build a few hospitals for that. Interestingly, the opposition is still sheepish on its record. It is still ducking and diving. The Labor members of the government's economics and governance committee clearly could not mount any response to the levels of supplementary appropriation required for the year. At the public briefing on the bills the deputy chair of the committee, the member for Bancroft, did not ask a single question. Instead, he complained that he wanted to ask Treasury about a completely different bill. It comes back to bite him in the end. It was a matter of 'let's not talk over there; let's talk over here'. This followed on to the committee report, which saw the Labor members not providing a statement of reservation or dissenting report. Every other report has one but not this one. There was nothing for them to dissent from.

The Crisafulli government's first budget laid the foundation for a fresh start for Queenslanders after a decade of decline under Labor. We continue to calmly and methodically work through the fiscal mess left behind by Labor. We are making progress, with the Treasurer's budget update revealing the lowest budget-to-MYFER expense growth since the pandemic. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and we are delivering on our commitment to return respect for Queenslanders' money across government.